

October 14, 1982

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Another horrible chemical explosion occurred in Ironbound early Sunday morning, one more in a series of accidents involving toxic wastes that have plagued this section of Newark.

"Despite the accidents, the DEP is currently considering two new proposals to bring hundreds of times more toxic wastes to this densely populated neighborhood," said Arnold Cohen of the Ironbound Health Project. "One proposal is for a huge storage and chemical processing facility in conjunction with a plan to burn toxic wastes at sea. More than twice as large a quantity of toxic wastes would be stored at this site than was stored at Chemical Control. The 2nd proposal is for a toxic waste incinerator to be located less than 500 feet from peoples' homes."

Earlier this year there was an accident at SCA, another company that handles toxic wastes. On May 3, a green mist was emitted from their smokestack, covering people, plants, cars and homes in the area. The long range damage as a result of this toxic release is still unknown.

October 24, 1981, Ferry Wholesalers/Tregg Chemical on Ferry Street, exploded, sending 55 gallon chemical drums hundreds of feet into the air. Luckily, Ironbound residents had pressured the courts and the DEP to force the partial cleanup of the site before the fire occurred. The site was located across the street from people's homes near a housing project.

July 27, 1981 a tanker containing 25,000 gallons of volatile ethylene oxide burned for 41 hours in the Oak Island yards. Routes 1 and 9, and the Airport were closed, people in the Airport motel were evacuated.

Four major accidents in Ironbound involving toxics in just over a year. Similar accidents have occurred in other highly populated areas like the toxic

liquid that leaked from a container truck in Elizabeth a few months ago, that are close enough to Ironbound to also damage the health and lives of residents. In addition, Scientific Chemical Processing at 411 Wilson Avenue has more than 2000 drums of toxics sitting on its property awaiting either cleanup by the owners or action from the DEP.

"Accidents involving toxics happen very frequently. The Ironbound section of Newark has experienced more than its share," said Arnold Cohen, of the Ironbound Health Project. "The potential for future accidents increases as the volume of imported toxic wastes increases."

Ironbound residents support Essex County Executive Peter Shapiro's proposal that no toxic waste facilities be located within 4 miles of hospitals or where people live, and work.